

Appl. No. 10/666,968
Att. Docket No. 02207/797902
Reply To Quayle Office Action of 04/20/04

REMARKS

Claims 19 to 34 are pending and allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 19 to 34.

With respect to paragraph one (1) of the Office Action, it was asserted that Figure 1 was not readable. This objection is not understood and is traversed since a review of Figure 1 makes plain that it is readable, unless the Office can specifically point out why it is not. Another "readable" copy of Figure 1 accompanies this response, in the event that the copy received by the Office was an unreadable copy. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

With respect to paragraph two (2) of the Office Action, the objection is traversed for the following reasons.

The Examiner has indicated that the present application is a continuation of U.S. App. Ser. No. 09/540,481, now U.S. Patent No. 6,564,175 ("the '481 application"). The '481 application was filed as a co-pending application on the same date, namely March 31, 2000, as the parent application (namely, U.S. App. Ser. No. 09/539,940 ("the '940 application")) to the present application, which was not filed as a continuation-in-part as to U.S. App. Ser. No. 09/540,481.

Also, as to the '940 application (the parent of the present application), this application was not filed as a continuation-in-part as to U.S. App. Ser. No. 09/098,412, filed on June 16, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,026,139, which issued on February 15, 2000 ("the '412 application") (and which is discussed in the present application). Since the '940 application was filed on March 31, 2000, it was filed after the issue date of the '412 application, so that '940 application cannot be a CIP of the '412 application since there is no co-pendency as between the '940 and the '412 applications.

In short, the '481 application and the '940 application were filed as separate applications (having a different inventive entity) on the same date of March 31, 2000. The present application was filed as a straight continuation of the '940 application. The '481 and '940 applications are not continuations or CIPs of the '412 application.

Accordingly, as to the specification, it has been amended to reflect the fact that the parent '940 application of the present application has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,647,349. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the objections have been obviated. Since claims 19 to 34 are allowed, it is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
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